

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: MYONGDONG TRIAL - FOURTEENTH SESSION

REF: SEOUL 5982

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOURTEENTH SESSION MYONGDONG TRIAL TOOK PLACE WITH COURT PRESSING TO TERMINATE PROCEEDINGS AND DEFENSE STRUGGLING TO DELAY. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS RESIGNED ON EVE OF SESSION. FIFTEEN DEFENDANTS WERE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE PERSONAL STATEMENTS AT SESSION, BUT NINE OF THEM REFUSED IN VIEW PENDING DEFENSE APPEAL TO REPLACE PANEL OF JUDGES. PROSECUTION ASKED FOR HEAVY PENALTIES FOR DEFENDANTS YUN PO-SUN, CHUNG IL-HYONG AND HAM SOK-HON. DEFENSE MANEUVERS WERE COVERED BY PRESS AND RADIO AND GENERATED SOME PUBLIC INTEREST. WIVES AGAIN DID NOT APPEAR NEAR COURT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON THE EVE OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION, ALL DEFENSE LAWYERS RESIGNED TO UNDERLINE THEIR ALLEGATIONS THAT THE TRIAL WAS UNFAIR. THEIR RESIGNATION MADE DEFENSE SUMMARY IMPOSSIBLE. WHEN THE SESSION OPENED THE JUDGE ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD APPOINTED NINE LAWYERS TO REPRESENT YUN PO-SUN, CHUNG IL-HYONG AND HAM SOK-HON, USING THE COURT'S POWERS TO ACT ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS OVER SEVENTY YEARS OLD. ONLY THREE OF THE NINE

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LAWYERS WERE PRESENT. THEY PROTESTED THAT THEY LACKED TIME TO

PREPARE A DEFENSE FOR THEIR CLIENTS. THE JUDGE SAID THEY WOULD RECEIVE PERTINENT COURT DOCUMENTS AND ACCESS TO THE DEFENDANTS, BUT ASKED THAT CASE CONTINUE AS THE TRIAL MUST END BY SEPTEMBER 9. HE ASKED THE PROSECUTOR TO RECOMMEND SENTENCES FOR THE THREE DEFENDANTS. SENTENCES RECOMMENDED WERE TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND TEN YEARS LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS FOR YUN PO-SUN AND HAM SOK-HON, SEVEN YEARS FOR CHUNG IL-HYONG. LAWYERS APPOINTED BY JUDGE FOR THESE DEFENDANTS PROTESTED THAT THEY WOULD WALK OUT IF TRIAL CONTINUED. JUDGE AGREED TO SEPARATE SESSION ON AUGUST 11 FOR YUN, HAM AND CHUNG.

2. JUDGE CALLED FOR PERSONAL STATEMENTS OF FIFTEEN ACCUSED REMAINING. MOST DECLINED TO MAKE STATEMENTS ON GROUNDS THAT TRIAL SHOULD BE SUSPENDED PENDING RULING ON DEFENSE MOTION TO REPLACE PANEL OF JUDGES. YI TAE-YONG AGREED TO SPEAK. SHE SAID HER PARTICIPATION IN AFFAIR WAS MINIMAL AND THAT PURPOSE OF DECLARATION WAS MERELY TO APPEAL FOR DEMOCRACY. SHE ASKED THAT COURT IN MAKING SENTENCE CONSIDER THAT SHE IS ONLY PRACTICING WOMAN LAWYER IN KOREA AND THAT DISTRAUGHT WOMEN SEEK HER COUNSEL.

3. YI MUN-YONG LABELED PROSECUTION SUMMARY AS IMMATURE AND UNPROFESSIONAL. HE CONDEMNED KOREANS WHO SERVED ONE MAN INSTEAD OF THEIR COUNTRY. HE CAST ASPERSION ON PRESIDENT PAK'S CHARACTER OBLIQUELY REFERRING TO HIS SERVICE IN THE JAPANESE ARMY AND PARTICIPATION IN YOSU REBELLION.

4. YI HAE-TONG SAID TRIAL WAS CLEARLY POLITICAL AND THAT THOUGH QE MIGHT GO TO JAIL IDEA OF DEMOCRACY WOULD EVENTUALLY TRIUMPH.

5. AN PYONG-MU JOKINGLY EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER FACT THAT PROSECUTION RECOMMENDATION OF SEVEN YEARS AT THE LAST SESSION WAS IN ERROR AND THAT HE WAS ACTUALLY RECOMMENDED FOR FIVE YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT AND LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS. THERE WERE NO GRADES OF CULPABILITY AMONG DEFENDANTS SINCE ALL HELD THE SAME BELIEF IN DEMOCRACY.

6. YU PAN-UNG NOTED THAT IT WAS UNCOMFORTABLE IN PRISON BUT THAT HE COULD DRAW COMFORT THAT IN PRISON HE WOULD BE FREE FROM VISITS AND HARASSMENT BY KCIA.

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7. MUN IK-KWAN SAID HE WAS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MYONGDONG DECLARATION AND OTHER DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE RELEASED.

8. THE JUDGE SAID HE WOULD PASS SENTENCE ON THESE FIFTEEN DEFENDANTS ON AUGUST 28.

9. REPORTEDLY, GOVERNMENT ORDERS HAVE SPURRED JUDGE, WHO HAD

PREVIOUSLY BEEN FAIRLY CAREFUL TO PROCEED WITH DELIBERATION,  
TO PRESS FORWARD WITH UNSEEMLY HASTE. THE MOTIVE FOR THIS RUSH  
IS NOT CLEAR ALTHOUGH POPULAR RUMOR SUGGESTS ROKG WISHES TO  
CLEAR DECK PRIOR TO US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

10. LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO HAVE COVERED DEFENSE MANEUVERS  
INCLUDING LAWYERS' CONTENTION THAT JUDGES UNFAIR.  
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## Message Attributes

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